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Approved For Release 2004/12/02 : CIA-RDP80R01720R000700090029-1

SUBJECT: International Commission of Inquiry into U.S.
War Crimes in Indochina

AKA: International Commission of Enquiry into
U.S. War Crimes in Indochina

The International Commission of Inquiry (ICI) into U.S. War Crimes in Indochina was established at the Soviet-supported Fifth Stockholm Conference in March 1970. The major force behind the ICI is its Secretary General, Hans Goran FRANCK, a former member of the Swedish Communist Party and anti-American lawyer who, at one time, was active in legal aid programs for American deserters in Sweden. FRANCK has a history of close collaboration with Soviet-backed international front organizations, such as the World Peace Council and of periodic direct consultations with the Soviet Peace Committee in Moscow.

The ICI has attracted a number of noted personalities who have lent their name, as well as talents, to the organization including Gunnar MYRDAL, the Swedish sociologist, and Dorothy Crowfoot HODGKIN, British Nobel Prize winner.

The ICI has convened two major public sessions. The first was held in Stockholm, Sweden, 22-25 October 1970. According to FRANCK, the purpose of the session was to discuss not only U.S. war crimes in Indochina in the strict meaning of the word, but also U.S. aggression, genocide, and crimes against humanity.

The American delegation, which presented testimony at the session, consisted of Mark LANE, an author/lawyer active in the GI movement; Michael UHL and Danny AMIGONE, Vietnam veterans affiliated with a U.S. group called the Citizens Commission of Inquiry into U.S. War Crimes.

The second session was held in Oslo, Norway, 20-26 June 1971. In an attempt to get prestigious figures sitting on the Tribunal to pass judgment on U.S. war crimes, Lev

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SCHEDULE OF E. O. 11652, EXEMPTION CATEGORY:
§ 55(1), (2), (3) or (4) (check one or more)
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SMIRNOV, who had been involved in the Nuremberg trials and was then a member of the Soviet Supreme Court, was designated as one of the presiding officers. Norwegian newspapers quickly picked up the fact that SMIRNOV was also the judge who sentenced dissident Soviet writers DANIEL and SINYAVSKY to long terms in labor camps, which did much to detract from any impact the session hoped to have.

As in the first session, a number of Americans attended, including Donald LUCE, who had resided in South Vietnam and was responsible for the exposure of the Con Son "Tiger Cages"; Fred BRANFMAN, a former reporter in Laos, who is currently head of the antiwar research group - Project Air War; and Arthur WESTING, an "expert" in ecological effects of chemical and biological warfare who had previously traveled to North Vietnam. There was also a delegation from the U.S. organization Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) who testified about alleged atrocities that they had seen or committed. The VVAW group spoke throughout Europe following the war crimes session.

The International Commission of Inquiry planned to conduct a "Hearing of Experts on the Effects of Modern Weapons on the Environment of Indochina" to be held concurrently with the United Nations Conference on Human Environment in June 1972. Although the hearing was not a formal session of the Commission, as were the two previous meetings, there was some testimony and other "evidence" presented, culminating in a press conference.

A third session of the Commission is being planned for 10-16 October 1972 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

The Commission has sent "fact finding" missions to North Vietnam prior to each major session. These "fact finding" missions have been used to provide part of the "information" basis for the ensuing ICI sessions. A similar role is envisaged for the current Third Mission. Members of each "fact finding" mission are listed below:

First Mission (June-July 1970)
Hans Goran FRANCK - Secretary General of the ICI
Arkady POLTORAK - Soviet lawyer

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Second Mission (May-June 1971)
Dorothy FORMAN - American representative
of Women Strike for Peace

Martin ROSSDALE - Great Britain
Jostein NYHAMMAR - Norway
Sven EKBERG - Sweden
Viktor MAYEVSKIY - U.S.S.R.

The following persons have been reported to be among
the participants of the Third Mission (July-August 1972):

Hans Goran FRANCK
Ramsey CLARK - Independent Observer
Frode JAKOBSEN - Member of Danish Parliament
Sean MAC BRIDE - Former Secretary General
of Amnesty International

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